

XXXV.—On a new Species of Babbler (*Turdinulus guttaticollis*) from the Miri Hills to the North of Assam. By W. R. OGILVIE GRANT.

WHILE engaged in identifying and incorporating Col. H. H. Godwin-Austen's collection of birds which has recently been added to the National Collection, I came upon four examples of an extremely distinct little Babbler. They were amongst a couple of boxes of skins collected by Mr. William Robert in the Miri Hills, and, as this part of the collection had never been properly examined, it is not surprising that so small and inconspicuous a bird should have been overlooked. The Miri Hills are the range to the north of Sadiya, running nearly at right angles to the Mishmi Hills, which lie to the east. The nearest ally to the Miri bird is Robert's Babbler (*Turdinulus roberti*), which was discovered by the same naturalist in the Manipur Hills and described by Lord Walden and Col. Godwin-Austen in 'The Ibis' for 1875, p. 252, under the name of *Pnoëpyga roberti*. The latter species also occurs in Tenasserim, and the late Mr. W. Davison remarked that it was generally met with hopping about on the ground or among the undergrowth in the densest portions of the forest, and would not take wing unless hard pressed.

The chief characteristics by which the present species may be distinguished from its more southern ally are the white throat and fore neck *spotted with black*, and the generally dark brown colour of the upper parts and flanks. I therefore propose to call it

TURDINULUS GUTTATICOLLIS, sp. n.

Adult. Top of the head and mantle dark brown, each feather indistinctly margined with blackish, those of the mantle with pale shafts; lower back similarly coloured, but with a distinctly rufous tinge; wings dark brown, each of the longer coverts and inner secondary quills with a wedge-shaped white spot at the extremity. Lores and superciliary stripes pale rufous white; ear-coverts brown; chin and middle of throat and neck pure white, becoming rusty white on the sides and all spotted with triangular black spots; the

rest of the underparts are pale whitish buff, with dirty buff margins, shading into brownish on the sides and flanks. Tail dark brown. Total length 3·5 inches, wing 2·2, tail 1·1, tarsus ·9, bill from gape ·7.

Habitat. Miri Hills, Assam.

XXXVI.—*On the Birds of the Philippine Islands.*—Part V.*

The Highlands of the Province of Lepanto, North Luzon.

By W. R. OGILVIE GRANT. *With Field-Notes* by JOHN WHITEHEAD.

(Plates XII.—XIV.)

THE second collection formed by Mr. Whitehead in the Benguet district, teeming as it was with novelties and rare birds, is, as a whole, far surpassed in interest by the great collection now sent home from the Province of Lepanto. This lies immediately to the north of the scene of his former labours, and includes what is believed to be the highest part of Luzon, Mount Data attaining an elevation of over 8000 feet. Unfortunately Mr. Whitehead has furnished us with only a somewhat vague account of his various movements, but I believe I am correct in stating that the whole of the present collection, or very nearly all of it, was made in the Lepanto district. As we ornithologists look at the drawers full of perfect bird-skins, not a bad or soiled specimen among the lot, and remember the many difficulties under which they have been collected, we are filled with admiration for the wonderful energy and ability of this collector, who has proved himself to be one of the best, perhaps the best, of the field-naturalists of his time, at a time when the study of bird-life has reached such a pitch of perfection that ornithologists are no longer content with indifferently collected specimens devoid of exact particulars, but expect not only perfect specimens, with the sex correctly ascertained by dissection, and the exact locality and date of capture, but also field-

* For Part I. see *Ibis*, 1894, pp. 406–411; Part II. *ibid.* pp. 501–522; Part III. *Ibis*, 1895, pp. 106–117; Part IV. *ibid.* pp. 249–267.